

I am writing to express my very strong opposition to HB 5447 (An Act Implementing the recommendations of the auditors of public accounts concerning private providers of special education).

I am the father of a child with autism and I truly believe this would limit my child's ability as a student to access a free appropriate public education.

Please reject this bill and what it stands for which is nothing more than requiring schools to hire the cheapest provider without any regard for the quality of those providers.

As in all things where your decisions affect the lives of children and their parents I ask that you imagine your own child being subjected to the very same laws that you want to enact.

If your child needed brain surgery would you look for the cheapest provider? Or a heart transplant, would you google least expensive Surgeons?

And in this case, if you had a special needs child would you want them receiving subpar care simply because the provider met your schools and your states budget guidelines? If you're being honest with yourself I believe the answer to all of these questions would be no.

If you wouldn't do it to your own child then why are you willing to do it to every other child and parent ?

Please, give those last two paragraphs your careful consideration and remember you're supposed to work for all the people - not just for the donors.

Respectfully yours,

Brian Walker

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Thanks!

-Brian

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